

SAN DIEGO'S OWN GARDEN MAGAZINE... Since 1909 50c

California GARDEN

APRIL-MAY, 1968

*Cactus in Spring
—a California delight*



Floral events...

APRIL-MAY, 1968

San Diego Floral Association Programs

Third Tuesday, Floral Building, Balboa Park
Chairman, Mrs. Eugene Cooper

April 16

1:30 p.m., Floral Building. Mrs. Rosalind Sarver of San Marcos will speak on "Azaleas." It is a privilege to hear Mrs. Sarver, especially if you have seen her azalea greenhouses. Mrs. Sarver has graciously consented to furnish a plant table as a benefit for *California Garden*. She will also bring some plants which are new introductions, and which will be available for purchase, after the talk.

May 21

1:30 p.m., Floral Building. Mrs. John Marx of La Jolla will present a program featuring flower arrangements. Mrs. Marx is an artist, and you will find observing her work a rewarding experience.

SPECIAL:

June Meeting, June 18, will feature Mr. and Mrs. A. B. C. Darcy of La Mesa showing their beautiful slides, "Tulip Time in Holland." The evening meeting will be preceded by a potluck dinner at 6:30. Watch your newsletter for details. The Darcys are world travelers and expert photographers.

FLOWER SHOWS

ROSE SHOW, April 13 and 14, Conference Building, Balboa Park, San Diego, California.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SHOW, "Orchid Fantasy," Conference Hall, Balboa Park, San Diego, California April 19, 20, 21. Admission, \$1.00. No charge for children under 12 if accompanied by adults.

CORONADO FLOWER SHOW, April 20, 21, at Spreckel's Park, Orange Avenue, Coronado, California.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA IRIS SOCIETY SHOW, April 20 and 21, Los Angeles State & County Arboretum, Arcadia, California.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HEMEROCALLIS & AMARYLLIS SOCIETY SHOW, April 27, 28, Los Angeles State & County Arboretum, Arcadia, California.

BROMELIAD SHOW, May 4 and 5, Culver & Overland Blvds., Veterans Memorial Building, Culver City, California.

SAN DIEGO-IMPERIAL COUNTIES IRIS SHOW, May 4, 5, Conference Building, Balboa Park, San Diego, California.

FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB FLOWER SHOW, May 11. Tour planned—buses will load at 9:30 a.m. behind the organ pavilion in Balboa Park. The bus will travel northward through the "Flower Country" of Encinitas and La Costa en route to Fallbrook. The bus will return to San Diego by 5 p.m. Included in the tour will be stops at a shell and driftwood store, at a nursery featuring cacti, and the Sarver Azalea Nursery. Tickets, \$4.00. (Flower show is free.)

BUSCH GARDEN TOUR. Requests for a return trip on the highly successful Busch Tours recently held have resulted in a scheduled tour May 18 (Saturday). Tour Ticket, \$5.50. Buses will load in organ pavilion parking lot at 8:30 a.m.

NATIONAL ROSE SHOW at the Disneyland Hotel, June 8-9, Saturday and Sunday. Bus ticket, \$5.50 through the Floral Association.



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SAN DIEGO FUCHSIA SOCIETY SHOW

"Fuchsias on Parade"

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Floral Building, Balboa Park



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CALIFORNIA GARDEN

San Diego's Own Garden Magazine

April - May, 1968

Vol. 19

No. 2

THE COVER

Except for the prickly pear of the Atlantic states, known to Linnaeus, and four species from the upper Missouri River described in 1814 as a result of the exploration of the Louisiana Purchase, the first cacti in this country to be known to science came from San Diego. In 1834 Thomas Nuttall, pioneer of western American botany, discovered in the village of San Diego, then little more than the Mexican mission and its Indians, *Echinocactus viridescens* and *Cereus californicus*.^{*} The photo of cactus and rocks, a wonderful combination, was taken by Eugene Cooper.

^{*}"Cacti of California" by E. Yale Dawson, p. 5.

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CALIFORNIA GARDEN

Published Bi-Monthly by the SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION
Floral Association Building, Balboa Park, San Diego, California 92101
232-5762

PUBLICATION BOARD

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9173 Overton Avenue, San Diego,
California 92123

Advertising rates on request. Copy deadline, 1st day of the month preceding date of issue.

California Garden is on the list of publications authorized by the San Diego Retail Merchants Association. Entered as second-class matter, Dec. 8, 1910 at the Post Office at San Diego, California under the Act of March 3, 1879.

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THE SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY

invites you to attend

TWO MAJOR EVENTS FOR 1968

SAN DIEGO'S 41ST ANNUAL SPRING ROSE SHOW

"Four Seasons of Roses"

Conference Building, Balboa Park

Saturday, April 13,
2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 14,
10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

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IT IS PROPOSED to re-construct in concrete, for permanence, the 1915 Exposition Food & Beverage Building in Balboa Park. It is proposed that the exterior design, which has delighted San Diegans and visitors alike for over 50 years, be retained. The trees and planting of its horticultural setting will be preserved. The interior will be developed as two floors providing more than 100,000 square feet of useable space. Patios are proposed as in the House of Hospitality.

San Diego today has more than 15 times the population of the San Diego of 1913 and 1914. Yet that little city constructed the entire 1915 Exposition, the buildings of which remain today the only such integrated group of Spanish Colonial buildings in the Western Hemisphere. The San Diego Historical Sites Board has declared the area an "Historic Site." It is impossible to believe that our present city, the 15th in size in the United States, need allow the buildings which comprise this unique cultural heritage to disappear.

There is great demand for the use of the space which would be created by the rebuilt Food & Beverage Building. It is proposed that the building be re-named the "Garden Center" and be utilized, in part, to house botanical garden groups and other agricultural organizations of our county. The proximity of the building to existing horticultural development in the Park dictates this use as proposed by past planners and affirmed by our City Council in their granting of an option on this space to the Botanical Foundation.

It is unnecessary to devote the entire new building to botanical and agricultural uses. Among the many users who might be considered for space not allocated for botanical and agricultural uses are youth groups including the San Diego Junior Theatre, the Junior Civic Ballet and the Youth Symphony. All such groups are presently inadequately housed or will be without space upon demolition of the existing Food & Beverage Building. Cultural groups including the San Diego Civic Light Opera Association and the San Diego Symphony Orchestra Association both need rehearsal space. Adult programs including various Round and Square Dance groups and craft programs for both the youngster and the old-timer involve extensive numbers of San Diegans and their growing needs are an increasing concern. In short, it is a question of too much demand for the use of the proposed building rather than too little.

The glittering promise of the Garden Center Building in Balboa Park, re-built in permanent form, stems from its original endowment of authentic Spanish Colonial architecture of the past. The fulfillment of the promise will be realized in the adaptability of the building to provide for present needs of the citizens of San Diego.

Statement of information by The San Diego Botanical-Garden Foundation and The Committee of One Hundred

In Memoriam

Mrs. Laura Carlson



Mr. Roland S. Hoyt



Members of The San Diego Floral Association are deeply grieved at the loss of these good friends. Grateful acknowledgment is expressed herewith for the Memorial contributions which have come to us from those who chose this wonderful way of remembering and honoring Mrs. Carlson and Mr. Hoyt.

BILL THOMAS
*takes time to appreciate
the mass of Cymbidiums*

Photos in
this article
by Betty Mackintosh



The Love, Care and Feeding of Orchids

by G. W. (Bill) Thomas
Ridgeway Orchid Gardens

ORCHIDS are being grown by ever-increasing numbers of commercial growers and hobbyists. And, there probably have been as many articles or books written, as there are growers, about some phase of orchid growing and the problems related thereto. In most cases the author is sharing a personal success which he hopes will aid others who may have been less successful. From the vast amount of information thus published over the many years, one can glean certain acceptable standards or basic procedures to follow in the growing and care of the most common genera of orchids.

Where many experiences are related, there are departures from the orthodox which, you learn, have been highly successful. This solicited article is being presented to inform of still another departure from the conventional procedures used by the majority of growers.

Feeding Orchids

We will concentrate on the feeding program and potting medium used by us at Ridgeway Orchid Gardens, since this is where lies the greatest divergence. We learn that orchids will

tolerate comparatively great incongruity in their growing conditions, but for most of us, just *toleration* is not enough. The goal is to attain a maximum number of strong, healthy growths resulting in the ultimate in flower production, both in quantity and quality. It is our opinion that we should be searching continually for new media, fertilizers and growing conditions that will do an even better job. Those conditions that will help us attain our stated goal, then, should be the ones used.

An Excellent Potting Medium

Osmundine, Hapuu, fir bark, redwood bark and red rock, both singly and in various 'concoctions,' have been used at our gardens but never with the success we have with our present potting medium, Redwood shavings. The potting medium should be one that is easy to water, will retain water long enough to be of value to the plant and still not be water-logged, and which will retain applied fertilizers so the plant will have food available any time it is hungry. Redwood shavings meet these requirements. Our cattleya plants develop multiple, large, plump growths and even the old

pseudobulbs have a tendency to plump up again.

Most 'composts' (with bark as the chief ingredient) are difficult to get wet without submerging the pot and this is an undesirable practice. Even repeated waterings are apt to give only superficial wetness, due to the size of the particles of bark, thus drying out quickly. Hence, such composts provide enough moisture for good growing for only about two or three days a week, if the plant is watered weekly.

Better for Moisture

The Redwood shavings will get thoroughly wet each watering, drains well, and will retain adequate moisture to promote growth 5 or 6 days a week, resulting in more and larger growths. During the summer months we try to avoid letting the shavings get completely dry at any time. We use an $\frac{1}{8}$ " mesh to screen out the sawdust from the shavings and we pot dry, packing as firmly as we can with the fingers. We are discovering that most genera of orchids potted in plastic pots are doing better on an average than those in clay pots. Redwood shavings are used on all genera of



orchids but cymbidiums and cypridiums. The cymbidium mix is $\frac{1}{3}$ shavings and $\frac{2}{3}$ shredded Redwood bark.

The feeding program at Ridgeway Orchid Gardens is ridiculously simple. Any fertilizing program should provide all the requirements of the plants at the time they need them to promote the best growth and the ultimate in flower production. We are of the opinion that most plants are using some fertilizer at all times and that there is sufficient light to activate the chlorophyll in the leaf structure, correlated with proper moisture and temperature conditions.

A "Pill in a Pot"

We provide this constant source of food by merely using a tablet form of fertilizer with an analysis of 14(N)-4(P)-6(K) and apply every 3 to 4 months, varying with the genus of orchids. These tablets are Agriform Container Tablets or Agriform Gro-Tabs.

Many hobbyists admit neglect in adhering to a definite feeding schedule. It seems the plants are victims of procrastination when a liquid-type fertilizer is the method of feeding. Rain, golf, vacations, sickness, shopping or some other excuse may upset the schedule. The presence of Agriform Gro-Tabs on the pots would nullify the neglect for up to 4 months.

For 4 years we have been using these tablets on all genera of orchids — cattleya, phalaenopsis, cymbidiums, species, etc., with ever-increasing flower production. Incidentally, the tablets do equally well on all other acid loving plants.

Slow-Release Chemicals

Most of the nutrients in Agriform Container Tablets are derived from slow-release chemicals, and will provide adequate plant nutrition for up to 4 months, varying with frequency

Phalaenopsis, the dainty white Chinese Butterfly—or Chinese Moth, is grown especially for wedding decorations.

of watering and the season of the year. A sufficient amount of water-soluble nitrogen, readily available phosphorus and potash is included in the 14-4-6 formula to feed plants until the prolonged-release nutrients become available through the action of soil bacteria.

Disadvantages of Water-Solubles

When you put a Gro-Tab on a potted plant you know it is getting a scientifically balanced formula and that every plant is getting the same formula and the same amount. For bigger plants just drop on more tablets. When water-soluble fertilizers are made into a concentrate and dispensed through some form of proportioner, there may be a doubt that every plant has received its share. At the tail end of the application the concentrate may be diluted and thus less fertilizer going to the 'last in line.' Also, with the abundance of calcium in most water, there is apt to be a chemical reaction with the phosphate in the formula to produce a form of phosphate which is insoluble, evidenced by a precipitate in the concentrate bottle. The only way this phosphate can get on the potting medium is to keep agitating the concentrate so as to keep the particles in suspension as it passes through the proportioner. But, in many proportioners this would dilute the concentrate so that it will be decreasing continually in strength thus depriving the last in line their just share. When the liquid fertilizers are applied to the compost, some is taken up by the roots immediately, some is stored in the particles of compost, but most ends up on the ground

as a needless waste. On the other hand, there is little or no leaching of the nutrients from the Gro-Tabs and thus no waste.

Incidentally, the texture of the shavings lends itself remarkably well to the Agriform tablets. The shavings provides many small interstices for the particles of disintegrated tablets to penetrate and thus be where the action is — in the presence of moisture and bacteria.

Now, a word of caution. This article was written to inform, not to convert. It is not intended in any way to tell you how or what you must do. May we merely suggest that after everything else you have tried does not give you the results you desire, you consider the information we have presented. ■

This photo shows details of the lovely form of Phalaenopsis.



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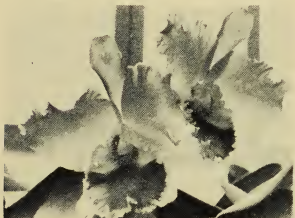
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Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

by Frank Fordyce

TRENDS are unpredictable, as they mold our very existence into certain patterns of behavior. The business world, ever alert to any excuse for starting a new trend, dominates our lives with such alluring trappings of modern man, as credit cards, two automobiles per family, seamless stockings and a different colored wig for each gown. Trends are not entirely an American custom, but we, never content to stand still, keep searching for that certain something different or unusual that enables us to stand out among others.

It has been my observation that the orchids business has its share of trends also. Let us consider Cymbidiums. To the average American, Cymbidiums hardly existed until after the second World War. True, they have an illustrious background dating back several centuries, but to the average hobbyist or grower, the trend of popularity began when England was forced to sell a quantity of its orchid stocks to make room for the production of greenhouse-grown vegetables.

A sprinkling of adventuresome hobbyists and nurserymen, having mastered the art of growing camellias, fuchsias, and begonias, purchased small lots of proven plants as well as seedlings. The unusual wax-like blooms rapidly gained in popularity and commanded high prices. This rapid ascent to popularity reached its peak in the years 1957 to 1960 as the American market began to produce and bloom seedlings in quantities unheard of in previous records. With California being the headquarters for

the production of the majority of new seedlings, the various trends began to take form.

The Original Rarities

At first, any plant, as long as it was called a Cymbidium, was rare and much sought after. Then followed the trend of searching out the recently awarded plants in England and importing them at fantastic prices. These, jealously guarded, were nurtured in every growing medium conceivable to maturity and the newly formed Cymbidium Society began its award system.

At first any group of seedlings offered were searched up by eager hobbyists. Most of these early breeding attempts were of diploid parentage. As finer parents were either imported or discovered in this country, the seedling offerings began to sparkle with such now famous words as tetraploids, triploids, new agar formulas, Alexanderi, 'Westonbirt,' Balkis, 'Silver Orb' and Rosanna, 'Pinkie.'

The die was cast. The trend had been set by hobbyists and commercial growers alike . . . a spike of 10 to 20 flowers 4 1/2" to 5" in size, of clear coloring in the white through pastel shades. The spike should not be crowded; the blooms must not be too cupped and must be very round of form. Thousands of seedlings were bloomed and with the increased scientific knowledge of the use of chromosome counts and improved culture methods, a record number of awards were given to Cymbidiums of previously unheard of dimensions and quality.

Then, as in all trends, a change began to take place. Commercial growers enthused by their recent awards began producing seedlings by the hundreds of thousands, while hobbyist growers, having purchased the finest stud stock available, also entered into the seedling boom.

Demand for New Colors

Bronze, green, and dark colored Cymbidiums lost their favor among the commercial cut-flower growers and disappeared. A sudden influx of pinks and yellows came into being. This over-supply pointed up the now desperate need for greens, whites and even created a demand for a limited

quantity of dark colors to spice up the shipping boxes of cut flowers.

Quality and quantity in pastel shades were then a reality, but the Cymbidium hobbyist was not completely satisfied. In a search to fill the need for something unusual in Cymbidiums, the miniature flowered hybrids were brought into being and immediately captured the hobbyists fancy. To most of the "dyed-in-the-wool" commercial cut-flower growers, this new introduction was unacceptable to the cut-flower industry, but they quietly purchased small blocks of seedlings, just in case!

The need soon became apparent that better color and form were needed in the miniature field and the word "polymix," for polyploid miniatures, was coined. At the time of this writing great strides are being made in the polymix field in new colors of better form.

Some New Breeding Trends

To venture out on the well-known limb, I would like to predict what I feel might well be a few of the new trends in Cymbidium breeding. Certainly new colors of brilliant hue are in the making in standard type Cymbidiums. The intense green and red tones, as well as the chocolate and copper-colored blooms may well become a reality in the not too distant future through the use of well-chosen diploid parents. These diploid parents to come about through a careful breeding program of the very few fine diploids still with us.

Early blooming hybrids of clear coloring, good lasting qualities, and at least fair form are on the way to becoming a reality through the use of selected hybrids bred from such parents as Early Bird, 'Pacific,' Atlantes, 'Early Bird,' Sicily, Rincon, 'Clarisse' and Lady Lucy, 'Clarisse.' I would also say that the dwarf growing, miniature flowering species will become popular as collectors' items. Their unusual forms, scented blooms, and dwarf foliage lend themselves to this pursuit. Has the thought entered your mind that out-of-season and scented blooms for standard size Cymbidiums may be reached through the use of several of the dwarf species?

I sincerely hope that some enterprising breeder may turn out a series of

seedlings that are remakes of some of the old favorites that bloom so freely in small containers. Instead of selling the unwanted "dirty" colors and "hard to bloom" plants to the large chain stores, a new trend might possibly be started by selling plants in attractive plastic containers in full bloom at reasonable prices. Blocks of such hybrids could be grown specifically with this merchandising method in mind.

Those of you who have watched the orchid plant picture for 10 to 15 years undoubtedly remember the Cattleya when it was known only as lavender, white, and white with purple lip. Trends have changed the picture considerably. When hobbyists think of Cattleyas today, there is a wide range from which to choose. To the aforementioned colors have been added a dash of spice in the form of reds, yellows, cluster type whites and purples, splashed petals, bigeneric novelties, intriguing dark shades, white with pink lips, blues, and a host of other tempting selections.

I am indeed convinced that Cymbidiums too are on the brink of a renewed interest through several of the introductions predicted above. Is Cymbidium breeding coming to a standstill? No, we haven't even scratched the surface! The challenge and the enjoyment of its results still lie ahead.



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GARDEN BOOKS OLD AND NEW

Of possible interest to orchid specialists is the catalog which comes to us from the Botanical Museum of Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, entitled: "*A Quarter Century of Publications of The Botanical Museum of Harvard University, 1940-1965.*" Here are listed articles and books published by members of the Research Staff and students of this Museum, covering not only taxonomic studies carried on in the Orchid Herbarium, but results of explorations in many parts of the world.

Now here is a book review, quoted from Jack T. Pickett, in *California Farmer*:

It's not often we get \$25 books in the office for review. Prof. Howard L. McKenzie has compiled a tremendous text entitled *Mealybugs of California*. The subtitle is "With Taxonomy, Biology and Control of North American Species." Don't try reading it in bed, you will get a dent in your stomach. University of California Press, Berkeley.

Surely this is the book which tells all about mealybugs.

BOOK REVIEW

HOW TO GROW AND USE CAMELLIAS. The editors of *Sunset* have revised the *Sunset* book "How to Grow Camellias" first published in 1957. The 1968 edition updates the recommended varieties of Camellias with many of the newer varieties included. Basically, it is a reprinting of the 1957 edition, rearranged somewhat, with the addition of the newer varieties. There are 100 more varieties listed than the 1957 edition. There is also a section on making corsages that wasn't included in the earlier edition.

For the amateur Camellia grower, it is a very well written and illustrated book that should enable anyone to grow Camellias successfully. For the Camellia enthusiast it is a good reference book on the best of the newer and older varieties. The increase in price of 20 cents is not out of line with today's increased costs.

Ray Greer

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FISH EMULSION



THE SMALLEST CACTUS . . .

Blossfeldia Liliputana

by Gilbert A. Voss

Blossfeldia liliputana was first discovered in arid northern Argentina by Harry Blossfeld and O. Marschner in 1936. Only a plant or two was collected and it quickly became a plant for much speculation.

Dr. Eric von Werdermann, who was given the plant to name, thought that it represented an "aberrant type" and might not be collected again. Blossfeldia was not relocated until a few years ago when it was found growing from Jujuy to Catamarca in northern Argentina and several localities in Bolivia. Material collected from these areas has been described by certain German authors as new species, bringing a total of seven species to the genus.

These six new species, however, probably represent only regional variations of *B. liliputana*. In the wild, the plant lives in the crevices of rocks, where it sometimes branches to make colonies of 200 heads or more. The individual heads are $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch in diameter! They are small, almost flat, depressed disks, gray-green in color, the tiny areoles in a spiral pattern, each filled with gray wool, but without spines. Each head will divide by any of several methods to



The coin in the photo gives you a good idea of the size!

form small groups.

The pale yellow flowers are tiny, about one-quarter inch across, with few petals. The seed pod quickly develops and ripens within a month or so. The flowers, which open only in bright sunlight, need not be fully open to be pollinated. They are self-fertile, a condition called "cleistogamous," and found in several other cacti including the closely related genus *Fraxea*. The roots are on the tuberous side, but usually flattened because of the cracks in the rocks where the plant grows.

Culture is somewhat difficult for collected plants which are far from common. They require very little water at the roots and should be sprayed lightly over their surface for several days in succession, then leaving them dry for two or three weeks. Given too much water, they rot; too little, and they dry up to nothing. Recently plants grafted on various stocks have become available through some nurseries and these grow and flower with very little trouble, requiring water only when dry, and a semi-shaded condition. ■

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SOILS—California Style

by *Jim Stalsonburg*

SOIL! Now there's a deep subject; or in the case of Southern California, not too deep at all.

At any rate the study of soils is a vast and complex preoccupation, the results of which are tantamount to one's success as a gardener. Most of our knowledge of soils has come to pass in the last 15 to 20 years and is highly technical in scope, but we'll endeavor to keep our dissertation basic and unfancy; just scratch the surface, so to speak.

Three Basic Types

There are three basic types of soil—(1) Clay, (2) Sand, (3) Loam. Clay is a heavily compacted mass of fine mineral particles; rich with the elements needed for plant growth, but difficult to make into a usable form. Sand is a mineral material consisting of small grains of disintegrated rock or gravel; sometimes fine and powdery, as found on seaside beaches (which, because of its texture, is not desirable for horticultural use); or sharp and coarse, as found in river bottoms. Loam is the happy marriage of the two, and is the material we fervently seek, called "Top Soil."

Keep in mind, as we "dig" a little further into understanding what soils are, that your particular soil may be any one or a combination of these basic classifications with variations from the front yard to the back. Dirt you'll find in a vacuum cleaner, but soils are a more or less friable material (a workable medium ranging from sand to hardpan) in which plants by means of their root systems anchor themselves, find nourishment, and grow.

In order for any plant to do its best,

the soil must have the proper tilt or desired tillability. The great majority of plant life share the same spectrum of soil conditions for suitable growth habits regardless of their native habitat, and vary only in their degree of tolerance toward conditions existing in their use as cultivated ornamentals.

Controlling Soil Balance

Soil is comprised of five factors. The ideal soil is the medium with the correct balance or percentage of these factors, which you as nature's chief assistant have the opportunity and duty to control. (1) **Mineral**—the bulk factor of decomposing rock and mineral substance, which is constantly changing in texture due to variations in temperature, water, wind, oxidation, chemical reactions, and pressures from growing matter. It contains elements vital for plant growth, but principally serves as an anchor base for the plant. (2) **Organic**—the balance factor of decomposed or decomposing animal or vegetable matter, which furnishes the areas of manufacturing and storage of plant nourishment. (3) **Microorganisms**—the action factor of living bacteria, fungi, and algae organisms breaking down organic matter and releasing nutrients in a usable form to plant life. (4) **Soil Atmosphere**—the reaction factor of free water, vapors, and gases of water, air, and organic debris that have formed a film on soil particles or absorbed compounds in porous mineral and organic particles to be assimilated by the plant. (5) **Moisture**—the supply factor of water which is held by the soil in partnership with the atmosphere content for chemical exchanges and serves as the solvent for transmitting nutrients into the plant.

A sometimes-referred-to sixth or result factor is the **Nutrient** content; it is an expression of inherent energy with the capacity to stimulate plant growth. However, without a proper balance in the first five there would be no result.

The Ideal Structure

The ideal structure should contain approximately 40% mineral material, 10% organic matter, 25% moisture, 25% air, and like "The Man Who Came To Dinner," if you will take care of the aforementioned, the microorganisms will take care of themselves. In considering the structure of your soil, it will be of interest to know that the average amount of organic matter native to Southwestern soils is 2% and trails off to a low of 1/2% in desert areas. Compare this to an average of 7% in the Midwest, and even higher amounts in regions of greater rainfall, such as the Pacific Northwest.

Are you beginning to get the idea where this all leads? In the strictest sense this writer is not an "Organic Gardener," but we do recognize organic matter as our knight in shining armor, especially in Southern California.

San Diego Soils

In particular, San Diego County soils are classed as Marine Terrace in structure, which means they are a conglomerate of clay and rock molded together in a cement-like condition. Realizing then, that we have the poorest of beginnings, we must roll up our sleeves and start the task of constructing good out of bad—or of building containers, filling them with good soil, and forgetting the mess underneath. Let us limit ourselves to the rebuild-

ing job here and take up containers, artificial soils, and the like in depth at a later time.

First and one of the most important things to remember is that water will not move from one soil structure to a completely different structure until the first has reached the saturation point. This might best be illustrated in a conventional tree planting, where one would dig a hole, plant a tree, and fill the hole with an expensive top soil mix foreign to the native earth. In subsequent irrigations of the planting a super abundance of water would probably remain in the hole, thereby eliminating the essential ingredient of air from the root zone of the plant. So, instead of creating a healthy environment for the tree to grow and prosper, we've created a bathtub for it to drown in.

Those Rocks

Use the materials at hand, even if your soil contains ten rocks to the shovel full. Just remove six or seven of them and amend it with organic matter. Any kind of organic—peat moss, tree bark, manure, sawdust, or your old army boots, as long as it has been thoroughly decomposed or composted. If it is not thoroughly composted, it will drain off nitrogen from the soil to complete this transmutation—valuable nitrogen desperately needed by the plant in the growth processes.

Whether your soil is sandy or clay, organic matter is the prime additive. It becomes a source of nutrients necessary to plant functions—nitrogen for stem and leaf growth, phosphorus for flower and seed formation, potassium for the catalyst to make the components work, and many other trace elements; it works as a humus to hold these nutrients; it increases the water holding capacity, as well as breaks down compaction and aerates the soil; it becomes a source of energy for the microorganisms; it releases carbon dioxide used by the plant to manufacture food; and it improves the soil structure in general, making it easier for the plant to establish roots to anchor and feed. Without sufficient quantities your soil is lifeless.

Organic Amendments

Fresh organic material should be continually added or worked into the soil, and depending on the type used, they will last from one to ten years. Let your pocketbook determine the best in each instance. We suggest an initial volume of 10 to 20% be added to most of our Southern California

soils, regardless of what you are cultivating; trees, lawn, cacti, or snaps. In cases of more permanent plantings, such as trees or lawns, a long-lasting composted wood product would be optimum for it may be the only occasion you have to get the amendments deep into the soil.

The "*piece de resistance*" to these endeavors is to create a transition zone between the amended soil and the native. This will rule out the possibility of perching the water level in areas detrimental to the plant's well-being. As in the preparation of a lawn, before you add the customary four inches of prepared top soil onto the natural soil, work into the top few inches a portion of the amended mix; this will promote a more gradual structure change and will allow the water to pass more freely.

To maintain good soil, fertilize adequately, water thoroughly, but not too frequently. All this ground work may not make you an instant "Luther Burbank," but it will make the task much simpler when you take the time and do the necessary steps in the beginning.

Isn't it so true with life, that the things we do initially are reflected in the results and the ease of the journey along the way? ■

What Is A Torrey?

CERTAIN PAIRS of words we hear together so often that we come to think of them as one, for example; super man, and apple sauce. Another such set is Torrey Pines. Even those among us who interpret the phrase as golf course, or glider meet, or the site of Salk Institute, still see in the background the famous trees. But why Torrey? Who was Torrey, or what was Torrey?

When Dr. C. C. Parry, surgeon and botanist with the Mexican Boundary Survey Commission in 1849-50 established this Pine as a species new to science and decided to name it in honor of his friend and former teacher, Dr. John Torrey, he was using a name more widely known at that time than at present.

John Torrey, (b. New York, 1796) was one of those giants of science who appear only occasionally: physician, teacher, writer, explorer, chemist, geologist, assayer, botanist. He was graduated from the New

York College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1818, and engaged in the practice of medicine with moderate success, turning the while his abundant leisure to scientific pursuits, especially to botany.

In 1817, while yet a medical student, he reported to the Lyceum of Natural History — of which he was one of the founders — his "Catalogue of the Plants Growing Spontaneously Within Thirty Miles of the City of New York." At the age of twenty-eight he gave up medicine to devote all his time to science, becoming professor of chemistry, mineralogy and geology at West Point. After three years in that position he became professor of chemistry and botany at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, meantime moonlighting at Princeton. From 1853 until his death in 1873 he was Chief Assayer in the U.S. Assay Office.

Dr. Torrey was a trustee of Columbia University, one of the original members appointed by Congress to the National Academy of Sciences, co-author with Dr. Asa Gray of a Flora of North America, author (here come our trees) of memoirs and reports on the botanical specimens brought back by various Western explorers during the middle years of the last century. Here in California we should remember his name also through *Torreya californica*, californica nutmeg, a rare, extremely handsome, but seldom grown evergreen tree. A very large specimen may be seen on the old Nate Harrison grade up Palomar Mountain.

In our Library you may see in Vol. V. of "The Garden," published in England in 1874, the year after Torrey's death, a fascinating portrait of the eminent botanist, along with a sketch of his life. ■

In April

*Don't you hear the flutes of April
calling clear and calling cool*

*From the crests that front the morning,
from the hidden valley pool,
Runes of rapture half forgotten,
tunes wherein old passions rule?*

—*The Flutes of April*,
by Clinton Scollard



Photo by Betty Mackintosh

Mr. and Mrs. James Kirk are happy with the first rose of the season. Mr. Kirk is Director of the Pacific Southwest District of the American Rose Society, past president of the San Diego Rose Society, and a consulting rosarian. Both the Kirks are qualified judges.

Rosarians at Work

by Mary Jane and J. Wells Hershey

AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME, the San Diego Rose Society members are right in the middle of that period of time known as "final preparation for the Spring Rose Show," and all are keeping in mind the five basic qualifications rose judges must consider when judging exhibition blooms. The American Rose Society has identified these qualities and has placed a point value on each quality as follows: *Form*—25 points; *Color*—25 points; *Substance*—20 points; *Stem and Foliage*—20 points; and *Size*—10 points.

Jim and Grace Kirk are two rosarians who have proven their knowledge of these qualifications time and time again, as shown by the trophies they have won, and by the time they have given to rose societies in the dissemination of the knowledge of the rose and rose growing. Recently elected Director of the Pacific Southwest District of the American Rose Society, James A. Kirk, and his wife, Grace Kirk, live on Expola Road in Poway, in a house on a knoll surrounded by roses.

There you will find roses growing in beds, containers, on fences, over trellis and arbor. Both are members of the San Diego Rose Society, and the North County Rose Society, are Accredited Judges of the American Rose Society, and Jim is past president of the San Diego Rose Society and the founding president of the North County Rose Society. At Jim's installation as Director he was awarded the ARS, Pacific Southwest District Silver Honor Medal. Known by his

smile and Scottish wit and backed by his staunch supporter and gracious wife, he is at present in the midst of district's plans for hosting the National ARS Convention in June, 1968 at Disneyland.

At their home in Poway, the Kirk's rose garden consists of four hundred and fifty rose bushes growing in the ground, plus 100 bushes growing in five gallon cans. An advocate of container grown rose plants, he has found that he can control the growth and production of the plant, recording the amount of food and water required by each variety. Some cultivars need more food than others. During his basic research of this method of rose growing, Jim found that most plants flourish on one tablespoon of fertilizer each week; that the best planter mix was equal parts of shavings and sand (or the University of California planter mix formula); that the container plants must be watered daily and that if the containers were set in a bed of wood shavings, the sides of the metal can would remain cool, and thereby would not burn the roots of the bush during the warm summer months.

Another advantage of container

grown rose bushes is growth control. If the rose is growing slowly, the container can be moved to the sunlight; and if the rose is growing too fast, the container can be moved to partial shade. If some method of growth control had not been achieved, San Diegans would have missed the pleasure of viewing the Kirk's rose garden displays at the San Diego County Fair, Del Mar, California, each year. During the discussion of growing roses in containers, Jim cautions that there is one item that must be remembered, you must allow time for watering the roses each day. That it takes at least forty-five minutes to water 100 plants. At least that is how long it takes Grace to water them! ■

Photo by Betty Mackintosh



Mrs. Harry Cutler, right, chairman of the 1968 Rose Show to be held April 13 and 14, is being shown the buds in Mrs. Paul Gaughen's garden. Mrs. Gaughen hopes these will do as well for her this year as last, when she won the Queen of the Show award.



Austrian Copper . . . most brilliantly colored of all roses and the parent of modern yellow roses. This old rose dates back to 1590. According to Dorothy Stemler of Tillotson's Roses in Watsonville, this rose is "the fanfare announcing the opening of the rose season."

About a Rose . . .

What other flower has been so associated with love over the centuries? And though our modern, long-budded, elegant beauties dramatize today's garden, where is there anything quite so appealing as a mass of old roses flinging their glorious color or misty pastels over an old garden wall? The simple loveliness of the rose is its own poetry, its own music, to strike a quick response in the beholder . . . the romance of the rose still reigns supreme and the summer is filled with the fragrance of roses. For centuries, children and lovers, all who look upon them have come from that vision of loveliness forever enriched by the sight.



A beautiful pink Hybrid Tea rose, Henry Ford.



A lovely example of a grandiflora, El Capitan.

**. . . don't
miss
the
upcoming
rose
shows!**

California Garden will feature a new rose in the June Issue . . . as well as articles about roses in general. Be sure to watch for it!

ANNUAL SPRING ROSE SHOW

THE FORTY-FIRST Annual Spring Rose Show of the San Diego Rose Society, Inc. will be held in the Conference Building, Balboa Park, on Saturday and Sunday, April 13 and 14, 1968, the Easter weekend. This show promises to be one of the most beautiful ever presented here, and is the *largest all rose show* held anywhere in the United States. Why? Because San Diego's best rose month is April, and our rose gardens are usually at their best, in fact very best, about the 15th of April. Since Easter falls on the 14th of April, it was the obvious weekend for our rose show, the theme to be "*Four Seasons of Roses*."

Anyone may exhibit roses in competition in this show. Entries will be received from 7:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., Saturday, April 13, 1968, to be followed by the judging of the roses at 11:00 a.m. The show will be officially opened to the public on Saturday afternoon at 2:00 p.m. On Sunday, April 14th, 1968, the show will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. For additional information, and/or copy of the schedule may be obtained from the Schedule Chairman, Mrs. John W. Trott, telephone 222-7695.

In order to encourage new exhibitors, a special section was added to our show for novices with the following definition:

"A novice is one who has won no more than three blue ribbons in a standard show."

In this year's schedule it is Section "P" and has eight classes, and a trophy will be awarded to the best entry in this section. In other words, it is a little rose show within a rose show! Of course, you must grow your own roses in all sections of Division I—Horticulture Classes for Amateurs.

Mrs. Harry B. Cutler is this year's General Rose Show Chairman, and will be assisted by:

Assistant Chairman, Section One—
Mr. Harry B. Cutler.

Assistant Chairman, Section Two—
Mrs. James R. Buman.

Mrs. Cutler advises that ribbons will be awarded in all classes, with forty trophy classes, of which all but eight will be in open competition. These eight are open to members of the San Diego Rose Society only, but anyone may qualify for these eight also by joining the society. Membership is open to any interested person. ■



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AZALEAS

*... lovely
barbingers
of Spring*

"Pride of Mobile"



THE FRAGILE PASTELS and sometimes brilliant deep pinks and reds, even deep violet tones, of the azalea flowers are almost indescribably beautiful.

Azaleas do not relate back to the beginning of flowering plants; they are members of the Heath family as are rhododendrons. They are a probable offshoot of the Magnolia family and actually are fairly recent. They range in size from shrubs to trees—some, the handsomest known to gardens.

The word "azalea" comes from the Greek word meaning "dry," because at the time of their discovery, it was falsely believed that they required a

dry growing site. All azaleas require a great deal of moisture, evenly supplied, especially when new shoots are forming. They will grow in sun, although filtered light or overhead shade prevents the colors from becoming sunburned.

All azaleas respond to pruning, if it is necessary to check irregular growth. The pruning should be done after the blooming period, as this insures formation of new shoots with flower buds. Feeding should be given after the blooming time to insure and induce new growth. A combination of 5-10-5 plus cottonseed meal serves well. They need to be planted in almost pure peat, and great care taken

not to cultivate the ground with sharp hoes or rakes as azaleas have shallow root systems close to the surface of the earth.

For expert advice on growing as well as selecting your azaleas, come to the April 16th Floral Association program to hear Mrs. Rosalind Sarver of San Marcos, whose outstanding azaleas speak for her ability and knowledge, as well as for the love with which she tends her "children." ■

Coronado's

Annual Flower Show,

April 21-22

by

Dorothy P. Whiteside



Photo by Tommy Lark

THE ORIGIN of a successful idea is always interesting. To observe the result of one man's idea, which has grown through the years into an honored community tradition and a focal point for community endeavor, is a heart-warming experience.

The Coronado Flower Show, which dates back to 1922, is a case in point. The show has been hailed as among the best in California, and certainly it is unique in its outdoor setting and comprehensive scope. It has been produced annually, except during the years of World War II, for 42 years. Today the show, with its accompanying garden competition, marks a highlight in the civic life of Coronado's over 25,000 inhabitants.

Back in the early '20s, when Harold Taylor first decided to promote a community flower show, Coronado was a

quiet village of about 3,300 residents. Those who know only the beautiful city of today would find it difficult to recognize the small community of those days—though then as now the impressive Hotel del Coronado dominated its landscape, and then as now Orange Avenue extended in a wide sweep from the ferry landing to the Strand.

The famous Coronado Tent City, a resort with several hundred tents and cottages for summer visitors, built on both sides of the highway from the Hotel del Coronado to the present location of the Amphibious Base, was in its hey-day, and a trolley line ran down the center of Orange Avenue to provide transportation for its thousands of guests. Another trolley line ran down Fifth Street to the Coronado Country Club, with its golf course and polo grounds, which occupied the entire tract of land west of Alameda Blvd. from the bay to the ocean, later to be the site of national horse shows and international polo matches. There were dozens of vacant lots, the entire Glorietta Bay section was undeveloped save for an early golf course; in fact, as late as 1936 it was possible to ride horseback completely around the island

on established bridle paths.

When Mr. Taylor conceived his idea, his primary purpose was to promote the beautification of the town. He felt that a flower show and garden competition, with entries open to all, dependent for its success upon the cooperative effort of all residents, would foster civic pride. With the help of Mrs. Armand Jessup (later Mrs. Arthur Benedict) he set to work.

That first show, displayed on a relatively small table under the palms of Orange Avenue, was an unqualified success. Coronado was growing, there were new people in town who were eager to establish effective gardens, and enthusiasm for the project was immediate. Within a year the Coronado Floral Association was born, an organization founded for the sole purpose of fostering future Coronado flower shows, and serving today as the executive branch responsible for their production. From that first small table has grown an annual show of major proportion, operated in accordance with nationally-accepted standards and judged by a team of accredited experts in their respective fields.

Nevertheless, the Coronado Flower Show has retained its individual quality as a community tradition, a cooperative enterprise sustained almost entirely by the hard work of volunteer committees drawn from the many citizens of the town devoted to maintaining its standards of excellence. Its advent is now heralded, each spring, by the erection of large canvas tents on West Plaza. (These tents were originally donated by the Sharp family,



"RENDEZVOUS WITH SPRING"

the 1968 Coronado Flower Show, will open Saturday, April 20th, at 2 p.m. and will remain open until 7 p.m. On Sunday, April 21st, the hours are 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with presentation of trophies at 3:45 p.m. Cut flowers will be auctioned at 4 p.m.

prominent Coronado residents, years ago; they are vital to the show and are most carefully tended.) But long before the tents appear, the town has prepared for the coming event. For, in addition to the show itself there is the judging of individual gardens.

Residents may enter their patios and/or gardens in any one of several different categories, depending on size and type. Gardens are judged in advance of the show, and those which receive awards are open to inspection by the public during the same hours as is the flower show. Programs are available at the show, listing names, addresses and classifications of garden winners.

The horticultural section of the show includes 60 classes for roses, 41 for cut flowers, 23 for growing plants, 12 for orchids, three for bonsai, 28 for cacti and succulents, and a special class for wild flowers.

Arrangement sections offer six classes in senior flower arrangements, six for picture boxes, five for table arrangements, four for miniatures, six for junior flower arrangements (for Jr. and Sr. High School students), six for arrangements by children from preschool through grade six, two for men,

and one for military wives' clubs exhibits. In addition there is a special class for group entries, which must be made by reservation.

It is worthy of note that, as is evident from the classes listed above, this show is not designed for the garden club enthusiast alone. Participation means not only joining in a community project, but in many cases involves a family project as well. There are few more eager entrants than the small fry, especially those aged about six. And father is often not adverse to chipping in with his own contribution. (As a matter of fact, the men's section is one of the most popular of the show, due perhaps to a certain irreverence in its approach to problem of design.) At any rate, the show has reached such a ripe old age that in some cases three generations of one family are now actively engaged in entries for this year's display.

In addition to ribbons awarded to class winners, there are many permanent silver trophies which further illustrate the continuity of family interest in the Coronado show. For example, in 1955 a handsome silver pitcher was presented to the Floral

Association by a daughter of the woman who won best in show for her polyanthus roses, back in 1922. This trophy is now awarded to the best entry each year in the picture box section.

Worthy of especial note is the Wild Flower exhibit. Few of us pause to think about the importance of native plants to the scenery of our area, or to realize that the rapid advance of land development poses a threat to their survival. Fortunately, the Department of Agriculture has taken steps to safeguard their survival. Also fortunately, wild flowers have devoted admirers such as Cdr. and Mrs. W. E. Clayton of Coronado, who are willing to go to the endless trouble necessary to produce the excellent display that is a highlight of the Coronado show. They and their committee of assistants deserve a vote of thanks for their dedication to a difficult, but rewarding task.

*You can't forget a garden
When you have planted seed —*

*When you have watched the weather
And know a rose's need.*

—Louise Driscoll



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Learn To Look At Your City!

by Mrs. Don F. Smith

Vice President,

Las Jardineras Garden Club



*Time to go . . . a good turnout!
Boarding the bus at the Atlantis
Restaurant parking lot.*

IF IT RAINS the Tour is automatically cancelled — what a thought! But Monday, February 5, 1968, dawned a beautiful day and the many hours of preparation that had been coordinated with Mrs. John C. Mathews III, Chairman, Landscape Design Critics Council of the California Garden Clubs, Inc., were not in vain.

Forty-six members of Las Jardineras Garden Club, guests and a few active members of the San Diego Junior League, met at the Atlantis parking lot at 9:00 a.m. After introducing Mr. Brian Wyckoff, Mr. Roy H. Siefert and Mr. J. J. Kennedy, the A.S.L.A. Land Design Architects conducting the Tour, the bus was boarded and we were off. En route from the Atlantis to Vacation Village, Mr. Seifert introduced us to the theme of the Tour.

Purpose of the Land Design tours is to show by visual examples what Land Design and Land Planning is; what it does, and how and why; its importance to every individual, every town, every city, indeed to the whole nation. At a time when urbanization and population growth have reduced the amount of land available for each of us, proper development of land is becoming even more essential. With more imagination and forethought, land can be developed as an environment for people in addition to meeting the necessary engineering requirements for drainage and sanitation.

Good Use of Land
Vacation Village was shown as an example of good land use, including buildings, walks and focal points. It has an optimum amount of structures instead of maximum. The use of pilings and wood in the structures, the use of water, the fact that vehicular roads did not predominate, all showed the total planning of the area, with strong emphasis on people and winding pedestrian ways. There were no ugly signs or trash cans.

Some "Examples"
Bahia next, was considered an example of bad land use, with maximum structures placed on the available land. This motel just grew. Each segment was added with no consideration of design, open space, or coloration of the preceding units. The verdict: "Structure maximized, pedestrian walkways minimized, saved only by Mission Bay Park." This was the first such commercial enterprise built when the Bay area was opened in 1953. Fortunately, since then, there has been some revision of requirements for structures in the development.

On to Tourmaline Canyon Park. This park was needed to provide parking and rest room facilities for the many surfers. As we dropped down the canyon toward the water's edge a vast expanse of blacktop greeted us. The sides of the canyon had been sheared so straight that nothing would grow on them. Vertical pipes were

exposed and a very large, ugly concrete drainage ditch stretched along the site. A beautiful natural canyon of native plants had been destroyed. Obviously, land design and engineering problems should be solved at the same time—yet there are many architects for the San Diego Park System but only one land design architect.

Grand Avenue is one of the few main streets going direct to the Pacific. The center planting had too much black top and was repetitious. A more sensitive feeling of native plant material would have enhanced a view straight to the ocean.

As we approached Kate Sessions Park we were told that the city was indeed fortunate to acquire enough open space for this park. At the right of the entrance was a long strip of concrete sidewalk leading straight up the hillside—a most uninviting beginning for a walk. At the top of the park rest rooms were placed in the center, with no landscaping around it and several trash cans nearby. There was poor siting of roads and walks, the turn-around was so small there was little place to park or stop to see the magnificent view. At one side a stark flagpole stood, to the left was a trash can and to the right a lone tree. The hillside was a swarth of well-kept lawn with one picnic table and bench. There were no trees, shrubs, ground cover or undulating contours to soften the graded slope. There were no winding paths to stroll along or shaded benches to invite you to sit and rest awhile. There was little to even suggest a park.

As our bus continued on to join Route No. 5 North, large concrete drainage ditches were again in evidence with more being planned. There was not a stream with sides for natural plant life or cover for the wild life left in the area.

We left the freeway at the rural and natural Sorrento Valley, soon to be destroyed by a freeway. We drove along a winding country road with old and beautiful sycamore trees along the canyon and at the entrance to El Camino Memorial Park. Here the trees would probably die as too much dirt had been bulldozed over the roots,

At the Szalay residence. Left to right, Mr. Brian Wyckoff, Mr. Roy H. Seifert, Mrs. Arthur P. McArthur, Mrs. Frank A. Frye Jr., Mr. J. J. Kennedy and Mrs. John C. Carson.



for no apparent reason. To the left of the entrance a beautiful hill had been sheared off, creating an erosion problem. There seemed to be no master plan since the new freeway would run just 55 feet from the parking lot and Administration building, destroying all feeling of tranquility.

We were all happy to return to the freeway and proceed to Harbor Drive. Few cities have a drive along such a magnificent body of water, but the new planting of pine trees dividing the drive will soon grow tall and wide, blocking all view of Harbor Island and the water. Some of the mistakes in planting on Shelter Island are now being corrected for better use of roads and planting.

The Szalay residence on Point Loma was a beautiful finale for the Tour. The house has been enlarged and the garden redesigned. It was indeed a pleasure to stroll in the charming, peaceful, well designed garden overlooking the Bay and ocean.

Back to our starting point where a trip over and back on the tramway afforded a perfect view of the Atlantis. Here the wise use of land was most apparent.

The three-and-a-half hours of visual education brought forcefully to the attention of everyone the lack of wise planning for our community—the miles of heavy concrete drains that eat away the taxpayers money; the poor concept and misused bulldozing and grading that cause problems of erosion; and ugly vistas that show only too plainly the lack of cooperation between engineers, architects and land design architects. It brings to mind that forceful, terrifying journal published several years ago called "Cry, California," a warning of what is happening to our wealth of natural resources that should be protected and developed to pass on to our children and grandchildren.

This tour was a part of a statewide program being developed by Mrs. Mathews. Similar tours have been held in Sacramento and Long Beach. We found it an interesting experience and would encourage other clubs to contact Mrs. Mathews to set up a tour in their area and "LEARN TO LOOK AT YOUR CITY." ■

New Opportunities at Expo

DEL MAR—Exhibitors in the annual flower show at this year's Southern California Expo will have new opportunities in feature landscape garden, orchid and bonsai competition. The Expo is set for June 26-July 7.

Flower Show Superintendent Bob Lamp has announced these changes for the fair's 1968 flower show:

Two new classes in feature landscape gardens, namely (1) Shade plant garden (a display of colored foliage and flowering plants), and (2) Indoor Garden (interior planting of plants adaptable to indoor conditions).

A new class in orchids, namely, Assorted Potted Plants (from 3 to 5 specimens).

A new class in bonsai, namely, Potted Plants (from 3 to 5 specimens).

Changes in judging and scoring of feature landscape displays, as follows: 40 per cent for design, 30 per cent for perfection of workmanship, 10 per cent for quality, and 10 per cent for variety.

Lamp explained that the new orchid and bonsai classes will give exhibitors who have only a few specimens an opportunity to compete.

He also points out that the emphasis in landscape display judging now will be on design and perfection rather than "artistic arrangement," but less emphasis upon quality, which was reduced from 30 to 10 per cent in scoring.

Lamp said cash premiums for flower show exhibitors will total a record \$30,600 this year, slightly more than last year.

Premium lists will be mailed out, or available upon request, about mid-April, and entries close June 1.

The 12-day fair now is called Southern California Expo, having changed its name from San Diego County Fair. ■

Rose and Arrangement Show

The Annual San Fernando Valley Rose and Arrangement Show will be held Sunday, May 5 at the new Los Angeles City Park, Orcutt Estate — 23555 Justice St., Canoga Park, Calif. The public may see hundreds of prize roses from 1 PM to 6 PM. Admission is free.

Those who wish to exhibit in the show should bring their roses between 7 AM and 10 AM the day of the show. Reservations for entering an arrangement must be made before April 30 by contacting Mrs. James Rose, — 365-5153; 15633 Horace St., Granada Hills, Calif. 91344.

Ramona Flower Show

The Santa Maria Valley Garden Club of Ramona, is having its Ninth Annual Standard Flower Show on April 27th, 1968 from 1:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the Town Hall on Main Street.

There is no admission charge and the public is cordially invited.

Flower and Garden Show Mission Valley Center

The fourth annual county-wide Flower and Garden Show will be held at Mission Valley Center May 23-25, 1968. The show will be coordinated by the Men's Garden Club of San Diego County.

Every garden club in the County is invited to participate, with this show being the largest free flower and garden showing in Southern California. In addition to club exhibits and entries, commercial displays and landscape features will be included.

The show is open to all exhibitors, with or without club affiliation. All entries are eligible for trophies, plaques or ribbon awards. The show hours are scheduled for 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, and from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Saturday. Trophies and plaques will be on exhibit throughout the show, and will be awarded during ceremonies to be held Saturday afternoon, May 25.

Interested exhibitors may obtain information at the Mission Valley Center Administration Office, or may call for additional information at 296-6376. ■

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The Landscaping Value of Irises

by Bill Gunther

San Diego-Imperial Counties
Iris Society

WHEN ANY particular variety of iris is mentioned, any typical iris society member has a "built in" response or reaction. His reaction—almost invariably—is to think about the blossom of that iris. And his paramount consideration is the color of the blossom.

His thought processes have been "conditioned." He exaggerates the importance of the flower and *he thus minimizes the importance of the foliage and of the landscaping value of the plant as a whole.*

The fault for this distortion of perspective rests with the American Iris Society itself. This is because the society has a congenital affliction, seemingly incurable, which can be called "exhibitionitis." The chronic symptom of this affliction is that the society—and its members—evaluate every iris for the exhibition value of its flower rather than for the *landscape value* of the plant.

Every year the American Iris Society and its components award thousands of cups, trophies, certificates, and ribbons of assorted colors to various irises. About 99% of these awards (most of them are ribbons) are awarded at various iris shows, and the vast majority of ribbons go to "specimen stalks." A specimen stalk is a single bloomstalk which bears one or more blossoms. Since these bloomstalks usually are naked of all foliage, it is obvious that all the awards which go to specimen stalks have no correlation with the landscape value of the plant from

which the stalk was plucked.

The very small proportion of American Iris Society awards which are not given at iris shows or exhibitions are awarded on the basis of guidelines which are prescribed by the society in its handbook for judges. These guide lines give fine lip service to the garden value of an iris plant—but they prescribe "weighting factors" for each award which without exception *subordinate the plant to the flower.*

There is an annual award of the American Iris Society for the tall bearded iris which has the best white flower—but there is not an award to the tall bearded iris which has the most resistance to the ugly leaf-spot disease. There is an annual award for the iris of any class which has the best red flower—but there is not an award to the iris which has foliage which is the most evergreen the year around. There is an AIS "color classification" system by which every iris is classified; every

last factor considered in that classification system relates to the flower. The type of foliage and the qualities of the plant seemingly are irrelevant.

The AIS awards system has stimulated hybridizers to work exclusively toward better flowers. In doing this, the hybridizers have neglected to work toward better garden plants—because there has been no stimulation for them to do so. As a result, a situation now exists in which hundreds of new hybrid irises introduced each year have better flowers than any wild species. But the vegetative portion of the new introductions—on the average—is less attractive than that of the wild species from which the hybrids were derived. The foregoing paragraphs are very purposeful. They lead up to—and they explain—a statement which is almost unbelievable, but which probably is perfectly true. **IF ALL THE IRISES IN THE WORLD TODAY WERE JUDGED ON THE SOLE CRITE-**



Photo by Paul Runde

RION OF YEAR-AROUND-LAND-SCAPING VALUE, IT IS PROBABLE THAT THE TOP THREE AWARDS WOULD BE TO SPECIES.

The three wild irises which would be very likely to win this very mythical award are *Iris douglasiana*, *Iris ensata*, and *Iris pseudacorus*—not necessarily in the sequence listed. Information about these three species follows:

Iris douglasiana (pronounced "douglas-ee-aye-nuh") is native to coastal areas of California and Oregon. The Pacific Ocean stabilizes the temperature and the humidity of this coast so that *Iris douglasiana*, in its native habitat, very rarely is exposed to hard freezing, to high temperatures, or to extreme dryness. Consequently this iris never has reason for going dormant, and it probably is the most evergreen of all irises.

This species has glossy foliage of a dark blue-green color, the growth habit of each individual plant is very compact, the height of the foliage remains almost constant (about one foot) all year long. The plant is "tough," and almost completely resistant to attacks by insects, bacterial rot, fungus, and/or virus.

Like all plants, *Iris douglasiana* desires garden conditions similar to the natural conditions which pertain in areas where it grows wild. When these conditions are provided, it is a beautiful plant 365 days of the year. And when springtime comes, the beautiful blossoms are a real extra bonus, rather than merely a justification for tolerating a plant which—for about half the year—is a wretched looking eyesore in the garden.

Iris ensata (pronounced "en-say-tuh") is a native of Asia. There are no hybridized introductions which include genes from *Iris ensata* because no hybridizer yet has been successful in attempts to cross *Iris ensata* with any other species to make a hybrid.

The foliage of *Iris ensata* is about 18" tall, very dark blue-green in color, and so slim that it appears almost grass-like. It has heavy vertical veins and is very tough. This foliage is very effective and is very long-lasting when used in arrangements. The blossoms of *Iris ensata* are relatively small; they most commonly are a slate-blue color, but the form which is called "alba" is one of the very few beardless irises which has a white blossom without a yellow "signal" on the falls.

Like *Iris douglasiana*, the individual clumps of *Iris ensata* are dense and compact in habit. But unlike any



Iris pseudacorus photographed by Paul Runde



The foliage of *Iris pseudacorus* —by Paul Runde

other iris, the roots of *Iris ensata* head straight down, and deep down, to reach deep-under moisture. For that reason, its foliage stays healthy and green when the weather gets so dry and hot that every other iris would either die or go dormant.

Iris pseudacorus (pronounced "soo-da'koh-rus") is a native of nearly all of Europe and of parts of North Africa, Asia Minor, and Siberia. As indicated by its wide natural habitat, it is a very adaptable plant. In comparison with other irises, this species is extremely vigorous, very large, and practically disease free. It requires more water than most irises; it often is advertised as a "water-iris" because it will grow very well in a swamp or poolside location.

The foliage of this iris is a rich green color; the individual leaves have

a tough central vein which serves as a stiffener; in the summertime the foliage will reach to a height of five feet without flopping. *Iris pseudacorus* apparently is immune to leaf spot and to virus infection.

It is so versatile that when growing in an area of severe winters it goes dormant during the winter; when growing in an area of mild winters but dry summers it goes dormant during the summer; and when given mild and moist conditions the year around it remains evergreen the year around.

The blossoms of *Iris pseudacorus* do not have grand size or heavy substance or flaring form—but they do have a delicate and fragile type of beauty which can be matched by no other iris. (The judges of the 1967 iris show in Sacramento, California, must have been he-men who were particularly sensitive to delicate and fragile types; they chose *Iris pseudacorus* as the "Queen of the Show.")

The color of the blossom usually is a light yellow self, but a brown signal is prominent in some forms. The rhizome (root) of this iris attains the size and fleshiness of a sweet potato. In favorable conditions a clump of

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Iris pseudacorus, if not restrained, will expand to the point where it will choke out neighboring plants. The best way to restrict the clump to the size desired is to chop off all rhizomes which grow outside the perimeter of this area which is assigned for this iris. The rhizomes which are chopped off can be given to friends for use as starts for their own clumps.

Anyone who has a moist spot in his garden for *Iris pseudacorus* may obtain a half dozen seeds of this plant by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to the CALIFORNIA GARDEN magazine. There is no charge.

These seeds should be planted about a half inch deep and kept moist until they sprout; the young plants should be kept moist until they mature and bloom; and the mature plants should be kept moist indefinitely. ■

Riverside Flower Show

The Annual Riverside Community Flower Show will be held on April 27-28, 1968, at the Riverside Armory, 2501 Fairmount Blvd., Riverside, California. It will be open to the public on Saturday, April 27, 2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., and Sunday, April 28, 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Admission is 75 cents. Children under 12 admitted free with an adult.

The theme of the show is "*La Fiesta de Las Flores*." The show is one of the events celebrating the Diamond Anniversary of the founding of Riverside County. Special music will mark the occasion, and special gardens will be open on tour. ■

WALK INTO SPRINGTIME IN SAN CLEMENTE CANYON

A GROUP of park-oriented people recently scouted this least known of our large city parks, to see "what there is to see." Here is our report to you.

This relatively new park is one that can be enjoyed alone or in company, on foot or on bicycle. Please don't fret that you cannot drive through it in your car; it wouldn't be any fun that way anyhow. Although there are many wildflowers, both annual and perennial, there is small chance that you would even see them from a car. A six-inch lupine in the grass? Silver-back ferns hanging from a moss-covered vertical bank only two feet high? A red-shafted flicker moving from one large oak to another? Golden bracket fungus at the base of an ancient decaying stump? The soaring hawk? A quiet pool, its surface disturbed only by the feet of those small insects who mysteriously walk on water? No, these rewards are for the wanderer afoot.

We suggest that you leave your car at the Genesee crossing, on the west side, go under the bridge and walk eastward. Take your camera, the trees are spectacular. We noted happily that the Park Department is doing

its best to disguise the scars left by construction of this street across the Park by plantings of sycamore, alder, evergreen currant, toyon and holly-leaf cherry.

After walking a few hundred feet you will find that the traffic sounds are left behind, and others have replaced them; the songs of many birds, the occasional scurry of a ground squirrel across the fallen sycamore leaves. Here is a place you can even scuff leaves yourself, in case you are nostalgic for scuffling. The walking is easy, along a gently curving, level, unpaved road, in and out of shadows cast by enormous and ancient live oaks and California sycamores.

By the time you read this the spring wildflowers will be in bloom along the steep north-facing canyon wall, and in the grassy areas beside the stream. We saw buds and the first few blossoms on lupines, monkeyflowers, black sage, blue nightshade, milkmaids, nemophila, wild hollyhock, meadow rue, and others. There is wild mustard, and filaree, but only a minimum of the coarser weeds which disfigure areas where the native cover has been

Continued

PHOTO BY BETTY MACKINTOSH



**WATCH
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JUNE:

The World of Roses

AUGUST:

The Lovely Iris

DON'T MISS THESE TWO
SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS
FROM CALIFORNIA GARDEN



Closeup of new leaves and the dark red blossom of the California Sycamore—Platanus racemosa.

Photo by Betty Mackintosh

cultivated or pastured out of existence. No tumbleweeds, but it is only fair to say that poison oak abounds. However, this is easily seen and avoided; none overhangs the roadway, and in due time there will be other pathways cleared of it. There are anthills and squirrel holes to be investigated; gopher workings and, along the creek, clear pools with all their enchanting small inhabitants.

We were saddened to think that a four-lane highway (ultimately eight?) will someday parallel this small stream and narrow valley. Its quality of remoteness and its reminder of earlier less harried days will be forever lost when that occurs. It is to be hoped that some alternate route may yet be found for heavy traffic. Perhaps you had better make your visit this spring, before the dust of construction and the smoke of diesels dull the sycamore leaves, while you still may hear the sound of singing birds. ■

MAN VERSUS WEEDS

DAVIS—Weeds are losing their minds here.

University of California researchers are getting weeds to grow when they don't want to: for instance, in the winter when the frost will kill them and save man the trouble.

Growth hormones to halt the dormancy cycle and stimulate out-of-season sprouting of seeds are being studied by agricultural botanists at the UC-Davis campus. Dr. David Bayer reports the method shows considerable promise as a future means of controlling weeds either in the home flower garden or over vast agricultural acreages.

Weeds, like many plants, have seeds geared not only to seasonal cycles but in some cases to dormancy periods that may last several years—to insure their species' reproduction. "This is why," Bayer explains, "just when you think you've gotten all the weeds pulled out of your garden new ones keep popping up."

A breakthrough in combatting this problem has been achieved at Davis in one weed species, nutgrass or nut sedge, which actually grows more profusely when people pull up the plants. Unfortunately, nutgrass is spreading in California. It is a stubborn pest in the home garden and clogs some types of agricultural harvesting machines.

The nutgrass mother plant, Bayer explains, produces from four to ten pea-size nutlets on the tips of main roots. These "seeds" will not sprout until disconnected from the mother plant. Therefore, destroying the plant with chemicals, by pulling, or by cultivation only causes more plants to

Continued on Page 34

Leo Volz

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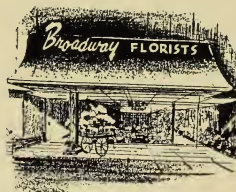
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Calendar of Care

O R C H I D S

by Byron Geer

San Diego County
Orchid Society

SPRING FEVER time is here again. To be sure, it's that time of year when plants put on a new surge of growth and try to give the impression that they are going to live up to the glowing promises passed out by those super-optimists who dream up sales catalogues. It is also the time of year when bugs and pests take a new lease on life; when weeds decide that now is the time, if ever; when the little fungus spores wake up to the fact that the days are getting longer and warmer. Everything in the garden demands attention at once, and in the midst of all this activity, man alone is afflicted with spring fever. Somehow it seems to me that the world is being managed poorly. Why couldn't it be the other way around?

Sitting and thinking about the myriad things that have to be done is not going to accomplish much, though, and we had better get moving.

The insects and other garden pests are moving in full force now, and this takes first priority. Aphids, mealy bug and red spider all multiply at phenomenal rates, and, if left alone, can virtually wipe out new growths and bloom spikes.

A light preventive spraying about three times a year is an excellent idea, whether or not these pests are in evidence, but even with this you are almost certain to find a few of them around with the advent of warm weather.

About Malathion

Malathion (without oil) gives good control, but has the one disadvantage that it is strictly a contact spray and has little or no residual properties. If Malathion is used, it is of utmost importance that the coverage be thorough, getting the undersides of the leaves and the surface of the planting compost. Even with this care, you may be certain that some portion of the insect population has escaped to foster new generations.

Personally, I feel that a residual spray gives much better general control and the most adequate along this line is wettable powder DDT, or its

liquid form combined with Toxaphene (again without oil base).

Of course, the whole idea of a residual spray is that the pests do not actually have to be contacted. Enough poison is left on the leaves to be lethal either by subsequent contact or by ingestion. The only serious deficiency to DDT is that it is not effective for red spider mite. In fact, it will eliminate all the natural enemies of the red spider mite and the net effect is frequently an explosion in the mite population.

An acceptable solution to this problem is to spray separately for red spider using Kelthane or Chlorobenzilate. It is a nuisance to have to spray twice, but the overall control will be far superior to that attained by the use of Malathion alone. If I seem to be nagging on the subject of insecticides without oil, it is because I feel that emphasis is needed. Any number of people have told me that they sprayed their orchids with oil based materials and suffered no damage to roots or foliage, and I have no means of disproving this claim. *But*, . . . it has been my experience over a period of years that even a small amount of oil, distillate, petroleum hydrocarbons or whatever other name the manufacturers can dig up to confuse the public tends to burn root tips. And a simple way to check this out is to spray a new, tender root tip with an oil emulsion, then look at it next day—if you can find it.

Systemic Sprays

The systemic sprays have been hitting the advertising pages in the last two years, and I can recommend them with some reservations. Cygon is used extensively and although I have had some reports of damage, I feel that the user, not the product, was at fault. Application at one half the manufacturer's suggested strength will give adequate control for those pests listed on the label, and if used at half strength it may be used more often. Cygon, incidentally, does not have an oil carrier. There are several other systemics on the market recently, but

I have not tried them on my own orchids. If you care to experiment, do so, but cut the application rate about in half until you have had a chance to observe the results. Damage, if any, will show up first in the root tips, and if there is any indication of burn or dehydration I would suggest that they not be used.

Fungus is not a common problem with the home gardener, and I don't recommend the use of any fungicide unless there is actually trouble. Since all fungicides are non-selective in their action, it follows that anything of a fungoid nature will be destroyed, including those fungi which are beneficial to bacterial action. This, of course, we do not wish to do since much of our feeding program is dependent on the action of soil bacteria to break down food elements into usable structure. What I am saying here is, use a fungicide if there is a fungus problem, but don't throw the baby out with the bathwater by killing off all soil organisms. If a fungicide is necessary, Panogen is readily avail-

able locally, and will do an excellent job. This material is highly toxic, and must be used with extreme care. For those who prefer wettable powder, a new dry fungicide has just come on the market. It is quite safe to use, and has one added advantage in that it is residual so that several successive waterings promote additional control action.

Those Weeds

Probably the most irksome task to be faced in the spring is the necessity to rid pots and potting space of weeds. So help me, I don't know where they come from. With warm days and spring rains the yellow oxalis just leaps up overnight. Oxalis and spotted spurge have one thing in common, in that, if you pull it out by hand you scatter a hundred seeds for each plant you remove. At present I have the most beautiful pots of oxalis you ever saw. Undoubtedly, as I removed oxalis manually all this last winter. I have been busily sowing great quantities of seed which simply waited for the proper time. Now the oxalis is there in full force, and a chemical control will be necessary. Sodium Thiocyanate is the only answer to date, and this will mean at least three sprayings at two week intervals. Top growth only will be killed by the first spraying, and the successive treatments should get new growth and eventually discourage the roots. The outdoor orchids don't seem to mind the treatment, and there is no reason why the greenhouse plants should object. I have never had an oxalis problem in

the glasshouse, so have never used it, but reports from other growers are quite satisfactory. The other weeds in pots may be culled out by hand and they seem to get the message that they are not wanted.

Repotting

The spring housecleaning has to be done outside as well as inside, and this usually means a good deal of repotting. Cymbidiums, of course, are starting out on their new growths, and most of the plants in the greenhouse will be pushing out new roots and leads. This is the optimum time to get them into new compost. If they are caught just before the new root collar is out far enough to break, there will be little or no setback to the plant in repotting. Plants that are in sheath or that are ripening growth preparatory to sheathing should, of course, not be touched until after blooming. I put freshly repotted plants back on the benches and treat them exactly the same as the other plants, but there are growers who insist that a hardening off by withholding water promotes faster development of the new roots and reduces the possibility of root rot.

By the time we are caught up on all of the tasks to be done, there probably won't be much time left to sit and enjoy the garden, or to go fishing or the many other things that sound like fun, but there *is* one more thing that can't be put off. Mark your calendar for the ORCHID SHOW to be held the middle of April. If one picture is worth a thousand words, one orchid show is worth a thousand pictures.

ROSES

by Mary Jane
and J. Wells Hershey,
San Diego Rose Society

THE WONDER MONTHS are here! Everywhere you look, you either see wonderful roses, or you wonder why you do not! Yes, it is action time for rosarians: for the rose-pickers, whether they be rose-showers or rose-sharers; for the rose-watchers, whether they be "on patrol" for disease or insect problems, or "on lookout" for beautiful rose gardens; and for the rose-changers, whether they be replacing a rose bush or reorganizing a garden.

"Now is the Time" Department

1. To study and record the growth habits, color and substance of the newer roses. This can be accomplished by visiting your local nurseries to see the container grown roses, as well as attending rose shows. The San Diego Rose Society is holding its 41st Annual Spring Rose Show on Saturday, April 13th and Sunday, April 14th in the Conference Building, Balboa Park.

Most nurseries have roses growing in cans available at a cost slightly higher than the amount charged during the bare-root season. It is well worth the increase in price to be able to select a rose in bloom. It eliminates the loss of work, time and disappointment you might experience from a bare-root rose that does not break into growth, or fails to develop as advertised. Buy only five gallon cans, so that there is adequate space for root growth; check the bud union and the canes. The rose should be in vigorous growth. Inquire about the planter mixture used so that when you plant the bush you can match it. While it remains in the can, be certain that you establish a water schedule so that it will not dry out. *Roses in cans must be watered daily.*

2. To prune your roses, following the Spring Rose Show, for show blooms for the American Rose Society's National Rose Show, held in conjunction with its National Convention on June 8 and June 9, at

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Calendar of Care

Disneyland Hotel. For additional show information, please call Mrs. Jim D. Campbell, National Rose Show Chairman, phone 278-4372.

Remember to prune your roses for show blooms for the Rose Section, Horticultural Division of the Southern California Expo at Del Mar, Calif., from June 26-July 7. The San Diego Rose Society sponsors the rose section. If you want to enter this year, you should secure a Premium List. Write to: Entry Supervisor, Fairgrounds Del Mar, California 92014. Entries close June 1, 1968.

Remember that every time you cut a rose bloom you are pruning your bush. Mr. Richard D. Streper, Vice-President of the San Diego Rose Society stated in his article, "How to Grow Prize-Winning Roses" that:

"Prize-winning roses generally have long stems. Therefore, prune to a bud that is capable of producing a strong stem. It is unlikely that the stem from the new bud will be any larger in diameter than the stem under the bud."

3. To continue your fertilizing program. If you kept records from last year, you should have a fairly good idea of the amount of food to use, and how often you should apply it. Each person has his own plans for his garden. If there is some doubt in your mind as to what to use, and how often to use it, it is better to use a fertilizer that has been formulated for roses. Read the directions that have been prepared for the fertilizer and follow them.

Rose fertilizer, with systemic insecticides which last for six weeks, is becoming more and more popular. Caution in handling this type is important. Whatever you buy, always take time to read the label and the directions. Never buy any insecticides without reading the label. And never feed your roses without watering them first.

A healthy, vigorous, well-grown rose plant will not be as susceptible to pest attacks or diseases. Keep your plants happy, and you will be happy, too. Preventative measures should be taken for fungus diseases as when symptoms appear the damage has been done. A weekly spraying program produces good results.

4. To select the roses you are going to enter into competition at the Annual Spring Rose Show. As you

walk through your garden, you can usually tell which blooms are going to be ready. Take a show schedule, felt pen with permanent ink, and some type of tag with you. For the tag, we use the white plastic strip we remove from the top of frozen orange juice cans, for this purpose. We write the name, the class it is to be entered in the show on the tag, and attach it to the rose's stem. When marked in this manner, you can keep checking the roses during the last week prior to the show. You can also groom the rose while it is still on the bush. This gives you two hands to work, and eliminates the chance of damage to the bloom which is ever present when you are working with a cut bloom. All would-be exhibitors who have not read Dr. Donald A. Wilson's article, "Some Unwritten Considerations for Exhibitors" in the December, 1967-January, 1968 issue of the CALIFORNIA GARDEN, should do so.

Exhibiting roses is like 'show business' because once it is in your blood, it only takes a blue first place ribbon, it never leaves. It is quite a bit of work, but the spirit of competition is there from one show to another. It is just as thrilling to see others win, and there is always the next time. To show a rose is to love a rose. Your flowers give you so much pleasure that it is only right that you should share this with others.

Hope to see you at the rose show—remember April 13, 1968 on Saturday, 2-9 p.m. and April 14, 1968 on Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Conference Building in Balboa Park. ■

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DAHLIAS

by Larry Sisk,
San Diego County Dahlia Society

THIS IS PLANTING TIME. Continuing until late May, or even June, dahlia roots and green plants may be placed in the ground.

They will bloom within 45 to about 100 days after planting, depending on size of variety and on whether roots or green plants are set out.

Medium sizes — the most popular 6 to 8 inch blooms — will bloom in about 90 days if sprouted roots are planted. The smaller sizes bloom faster; the larger, slower.

Using green plants reduce the time to bloom by about 30 days.

Although it is later than most dahlia fanciers like for planting seed, it actually isn't too late; planting of seed after May 15 isn't recommended.

The difficulty with late seed planting is that the flats and small plants need more care to avoid loss by drying out, burning, or wilting.

Green plants still may be started from cuttings from sprouted roots, but the desirable season for this type of propagation is just about at its peak.

Growing dahlias from roots or plants obtained from specialists is as simple and easy as almost any other kind of flower. No special soil, conditions, or tools are necessary. Good flowers may be produced right along with other flowers, in beds along the house or fence, or in a corner of the yard, if desired. Or, they may be grown in beds, patches or fields, all within limitations set by the gardener himself.

Planting Dahlias

They may be grown in full sun, or in part shade. Excellent results are reaped from dahlias grown in half shade, especially if the shade protects the plants in late afternoon. Under extreme heat situations some blooms that are subject to fading will respond with full color under artificial shading.

Ordinary soil found in the average flower bed or home garden is all that dahlias require. Of course, the better the soil, the better any plant will grow.

The ideal for dahlias is garden loam slightly on the sandy side, with a pH of 6 to 7, if you want to get technical. Adding humus at time of planting, or as a mulch is recommended.

Some gardeners like to add bone-meal to the soil at time of planting, but other types of fertilizer should not be placed in the ground with the dahlia root or plant. The other types should have been placed in the soil earlier if desired, or may be added as a top or side dressing after growth is under way. If bonemeal is used, it becomes available to the plant about 90 days after mixing with the soil.

Dahlia fanciers usually go to extremes in preparing their beds, but good results are often reaped by the gardener who just stirs a hole in the ground, plops in a dahlia root, waters it and lets it grow. Whatever one wants to do is recommended! Just plant dahlias.

Many Methods Used

One of the leading dahlia experts of the country, Roy Webb of Scranton, Pa., merely stirs a hole in his garden soil heavy with anthracite coal ashes, sets a stake, and lays in a root, covers and waters it and then lets it grow. Another, Nat Lundgren, of Santa Cruz, Calif., plants very shallow, almost on top of the ground, and covers with mulch and only a thin layer of soil.

Those practices are fine for those who choose them, but turning the soil about 12 to 18 inches deep is recommended to those wanting advice.

Supports Important

Except for the small varieties, stakes

should be placed in the soil for the medium and large dahlia plants to support them later and to prevent wind damage. At the base of the stake, dig a planting hole about 6 to 8 inches deep in loam or sandy soil, and about 4 to 6 inches in clay or tighter.

The root will have a visible "eye" or sprout on it; if it doesn't, don't plant it.

Lay the root on its side, with the eye or sprout up, in the bottom of the hole about two inches from the stake. Cover the root with soil and water it sufficiently to dampen the soil to the bottom of the hole, and then leave it alone until the sprout emerges and forms leaves.

Regular Care

After a set of leaves forms on the sprout, begin a regular routine of watering, spraying and fertilizing, to continue as long as flowers are wanted. Water deeply when the top of the soil is dry — about every six to eight days; spray for insects as soon as two sets of leaves form, and continue each week for prevention, unless systemic insecticides are used and instructions for frequency of application are followed; and, fertilize about every four weeks for best results, or don't fertilize at all and still have pretty good flowers.

As soon as three sets of leaves are formed, pinch out the growing tip to make the dahlia plant bush out. Pinch out more growing tips from the branches as they grow, if more and smaller flowers are wanted.

If larger (and fewer) dahlia blooms are desired, restrict the number of branches or canes to six or eight for medium sizes and four to six for the large. New canes continuing to form at the leaf nodes should be removed as they appear to keep the plant under control.

Three buds will form at the end of each cane. Two of these — the outside ones — should be pinched or rubbed out so that only one flower will develop. However, if the tiniest poms are being grown, no disbudding is required, and if the gardener wants just flowers and lots of them, let the plants grow and the dahlia color and spectacular flowers will be rewarding.



A TALE OF TWO CITIES

by Virginia M. Innis

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO the census of San Diego was approximately the same count as the present population of Vista, California. Although the span of time difference exists, it is a coincidence that in '68 with a population slightly under 23,000, both cities will have to face the issue of meeting the park needs of the people. When San Diego acquired Balboa Park in 1868, the 1,400 acres were valued at \$6,000. (The acquisition culminated twenty years of effort to acquire the land.)

CALIFORNIA GARDEN carried a story on the need for parks in Vista in the past edition, February-March '68. The story explained how city manager Thomas R. Parks and the Vista city council were attempting to change the harsh statistics of each citizen being represented by 7.8 feet of park space, including blacktop and park buildings. Park lands which could be acquired by public acceptance of a bond issue in the June primary were shown with the magazine article. Since the story appeared, important developments have occurred.

Subsequent Developments

A few days after the magazine reached the newsstands, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Bringle gave the city of Vista 39 acres of land adjoining the proposed park site. The photograph in the February issue showed a strip of land totaling under eight acres which the Bringles had promised to give the city if the park bonds passed. The Bringle gift included the pictured strip and a horseshoe shape of land that forms a U-shape around the solitary residence in the area. The only string attached to the Bringle gift was the stipulation that a street be installed to serve the owners of that house, Mr. and Mrs. P. H. Smitgen.

On February 18 a story telling of the Bringle gift appeared in an editorial by the Vista Press. The editorial suggested, "A 60-foot easement on three sides of the Smitgen land can eventually be paved and lots sold from the Bringle gift for sufficient money to assist in the development of the lower property as a park." It seems a pity that the influence of the press could have been pitted into such a shallow and unimaginative statement.

Each year thousands are attracted to Descanso Gardens, camellia gardens under huge black-trunk trees, once the estate of Manchester Boddy. When the citizens of La Cañada feared the garden would be sub-divided and lots sold, they acted to preserve the estate as a Los Angeles County park. The Boddy residence on the property was retained and serves as a meeting place for many civic groups, but bi-annually the house is the scene for one of the outstanding Christmas decorations shows in California. Instead of selling off lots adjacent to the park-surrounded house, Vista might entertain the thought of eventually acquiring that house. It worked at Descanso Gardens.

In March the Vista City council voted to place the two proposed pieces of land on the bond issue separately. Citizens will have the choice of acquiring part or all of the proposed park lands. If both parcels of land are accepted by the voters and the Bringle gift added, Vista will have over fifty acres of park land to develop. It wouldn't make a Balboa Park but it would be a start toward meeting some of the recreational needs of the people.

Few cities in the nation have parks the size of Balboa Park and there were people in San Diego who thought it was too expansive in 1868. At that time city fathers foresaw the growth of San Diego and set aside 1,400 acres of Pueblo Land for a park. It was a rugged and barren site where a few cattle grazed and a bit of gravel was dug. Later parts of the area served as a site for the dog pound and the city dump, but the land was dedicated to the public's use "forever" in 1870 and Balboa Park was launched.

The Fame of Balboa Park

Possibly somewhat hastened by becoming the site of a World's Fair, Balboa Park in 1915 was ready for the focus of the nation. The national sights have never left the park that has continued to develop through the years. Today the park is still the nucleus for the city's culture and recreation. The park offers lawn sports, tennis courts, a municipal swimming pool and golf course, and there are places to walk or picnic. There are art museums, scientific and historic museums, buildings where flower shows and exhibits may be presented, buildings where international societies, youth groups, cultural and civic organizations may meet. There are two places where concerts may be presented in the open air and there is an outstanding restaurant.

There are too numerous offerings to mention but perhaps San Diego is proudest of its zoo, which is internationally known as one of the largest and most beautiful zoos in the world. The zoo has brought fame to Balboa Park and to San Diego.

Although Balboa Park continues to develop, most of its buildings and activities were in existence in 1943. By this time the city population had reached 387,200 and San Diego might have been content with her grand park, but she wasn't. The city asked the state for 4,604 acres of state park lands, most of which were under water in the Mission Bay Park. The city acquired these lands and are in the process of making it one of the nation's outstanding aquatic orientated parks.

The marine park, Sea World, is a great attraction for those who desire to see the fish and ocean mammals. This area is dotted with scenic marinas, beautiful motels and outstanding restaurants. Like the San Diego Zoo, much of the now developed area is self supporting. The city at the present, plans to develop as much land on the Mission Bay side of Highway Interstate 5 as they have developed in the Mission Bay area proper.

Foresight and Planning Did It

The development of the San Diego parks may be attributed to leaders who possessed foresight and equally to an enlightened citizenry who have supported the expense and expansion of the parks. The city of San Diego is finishing the first year of a six-year program in which they will spend 21 million which the San Diego voters

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approved in park bonds. Balboa Park will receive some new buildings and some face lifting with seven million dollars of the funds; another seven million will be spent in developing the new area of Mission Beach. The remaining funds will be spent in enlarging present parks and in building new parks. One totally new park for San Diego is the Grant Hill Park in Southwest San Diego, and San Diego like Vista will apply for the 50% Open Land Program rebate from the Federal government.

Parks do not just happen, they are planned by leaders who have vision. They are welcomed or limited by the taxpayer. A beautiful park always to an extent reflects the values of a community or city. If Vista chooses to support a park and that park reaches only a proportion of the utility or beauty of Balboa Park or Mission Bay Park, a Vista citizen couldn't get more for his money by spending it any other way.

The Vista leaders have provided the leadership in putting forth the proposition, and they have acquired the services of a landscape architect, Roy H. Seifert, to provide correct land planning. In June the voters will say No, or "I'll buy that." That's how parks are financed. ■

Man Versus Weeds . . .

Continued from page 28

grow—and their numbers multiply geometrically.

Davis researchers have found a chemical that will spread through the mother plant and cause simultaneous sprouting of as many as three of these connected root "seeds."

"We're still working on this one," Bayer says. "We need to be able to sprout and then kill all the plants at once before they each develop new outlets."

The Davis researchers also are examining materials that cause plants to move herbicides or growth-affecting hormones through their systems more effectively, and to concentrate these chemicals in the most vulnerable sites. ■

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1468 C St., S.D.

SAN DIEGUITO GARDEN CLUB
Third Wednesday, Seacoast Savings Building, Encinitas, 10 a.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Waldo Vogt 755-4772
773 Barbara Ave., Solana Beach 92075

SAN MIGUEL BRANCH AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
First Wed., Youth Center, Lemon Grove
Pres.: Mrs. Ferris Jones 466-0138
4610 68th St., S.D.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
Second Monday, Ramona Women's Club House, 5th and Main, 9:30 a.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Stanley MacKenzie 789-1135
R. 1, Box 949, Ramona 92065

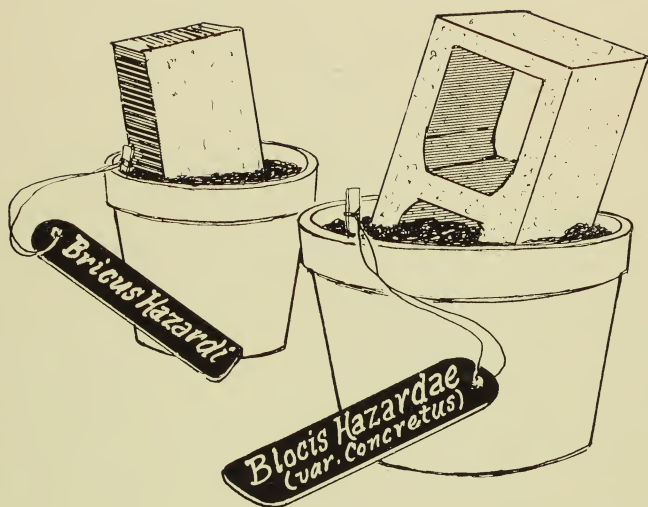
SANTEE WOMEN'S CLUB Garden Sec.
Pres.: Mrs. Leon Roloff 448-0291
9138 Willow Grove Ave., Santee 92071

SWEETWATER JUNIOR GARDEN CLUB
First Monday, 7:30 p.m. Meets at home of Temporary President
Temp. Pres.: Cleoves Hardin 469-3038
9195 Harness Rd., Spring Valley 92077

VILLE GARDEN CLUB, POWAY
Meets 3rd Thursday, 10 a.m. Homes of members
Pres.: Mrs. Brown Thompson 111
16720 Espola Rd., Poway 92064

VISTA GARDEN CLUB
First Friday, Vista Rec. Center 1:00 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Daniel Ilich 724-8020
551 Morningside Pl., Vista 92083

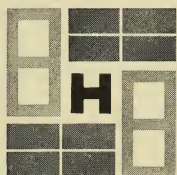
VISTA MESA GARDEN CLUB
Second Tuesday, 2 p.m. Family Association Center
Pres.: Mrs. Clara Haskins 465-0910
2352 El Prado, Lemon Grove 92045



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